

Summer Reading 2010 for senior AP English Literature and Composition

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The course will cover breadth and depth in literature: a survey of older and newer, of drama, fiction, and poetry. The summer reading is to help you jump start that knowledge.

Overview:

This summer reading assignment requires not just reading, but attentive reading. You will demonstrate attentive reading by actively annotating or “marking up” your text. This means writing in your book! Good readers are always marking passages, making connections, noting style, and defining words; this is exactly what you are required to do as you read two books this summer. *After Dark* by Haruki Murakami is the common text, and you will read one additional novel from the list below. Carefully consider your independent choice novel before ordering; read an online plot synopsis and a few reader reviews (on a site like Amazon) before making a final decision. Finally, you need to see a play at some point in the summer.

Directions:

1. Start with *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. Yes, yes. I know that you already read parts of this. I am asking you to review it, and read the chapters you missed last year. Read the entire book. Annotate at least 10 of the chapters following the directions below. For 4 other chapters write a good paragraph or two with an example of your own (not from the book) from watching current movies, books you have read, stories you know, or your summer reading. Then ask a thinking question or make a comment for the chapter. The paragraphs will be due on the first day of school. Do not postpone this.
2. Purchase a copy of *After Dark* by Haruki Murakami and **one** additional novel from the list below.
3. Carefully read and annotate your two texts by the time school begins on August 11, 2009. Yes, you need to write in your book!
4. Use the “Response Strategies” below as a general guideline to annotating your text.
5. Also, identify three key passages (less than a page) in *After Dark* and two key passages in choice book, and explain why each passage is significant, using complete sentences. (5 passages total, 200 words maximum per explanation)
6. We will begin the year by discussing *After Dark*, and you may be asked to take a reading comprehension quiz over this book.
7. Your individually selected novel will serve as the basis for a 40 minute timed writing during the first week of school.
8. Watch a play in person or gather with some friends and watch a Shakespeare movie that is not Hamlet. Jot some notes at intermission or stop the movie in the middle. Then write a 1 page, single-spaced review of the play that includes a 3 sentence summary, your recommendation, reflection of a theme the director seemed to think was important, analysis of the acting, directing, set or other, connection to other texts or connection to *How to Read Like a Professor*. The hard copy of this will be due WITH the ticket stub or program or the works cited from the video.
9. You may be wondering, “How many annotations are required?” The answer: an attentive reader will probably have some sort of annotation every two to three pages on average, but possibly more for an important section. Note: underlining only is not annotating – you need text in your annotations. Complete sentences are not expected when annotating.

Book Choices:

Wuthering Heights (Emily Bronte)
Ceremony (Leslie Marmon Silko)
The Shipping News (Annie Proulx) (students like this one)
The Things They Carried (Tim O'Brien) (also popular)
The Poisonwood Bible (Barbara Kingsolver)
Catch-22 (Joseph Heller)
Life and Times of Michael K. (J.M. Coetzee)

Play Choices:

I ask you to see a play that is “famous” and might apply to the AP exam. Any Shakespeare play would be nice, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Glass Menagerie*, any play by Bernard Shaw, Arthur Miller, Beckett, Henrik Ibsen, Edward Albee, August Wilson. *Hamlet* and *Othello* will not count. However Branagh’s *Much Ado about Nothing* is funny. Michelle Phieffer’s *Midsummer’s Nights Dream* is fantastic. And frankly, Seoul has really good productions every summer. Contact me if you are unsure whether a play will work.

Response Strategies:

Passages: Mark any words, lines, or sections of the story that “stick out” for you – make sure to briefly explain why they “stick out.” These passages might be important, puzzling, curious, provocative, dubious, or well written – whatever grabs your attention. Note: Avoid using a highlighter; instead, use a pen or pencil to underline.

Reactions/Connections: What are your feelings and responses to this story? Does it remind you of past experiences, people, or events in your life? Does it make you think of anything happening in the news, around school, or in other books you have read?

Craft / 6-Traits: What do you notice about the author’s style, language, and point of view? What about the use of literary devices (similes, metaphors, irony, hyperbole, symbolism, etc.)? Do you notice anything interesting about the structure of the work (chronology of events, flashbacks, etc.)? What do you notice about the author’s use of the 6-Traits (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions)?

Questions: What questions come to mind while you are reading? Are there things you wonder about, doubt, or don’t understand? What would you ask the author or the characters if you could talk to them?

Vocabulary: Are there words that you don’t understand? Circle them while you read and make an educated guess about the meaning based on the context. Don’t stop to look up every word while you are reading (this will bog down the flow of the narrative). If a word does seem particularly important, take a moment to look it up and write a one or two word definition on the page.

Checklist for August 2010:

Bring the following to your first English class:

_____ Your annotated copy of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*

* Four paragraphs describing original examples and questioning beyond the text

_____ Your annotated copy of *After Dark*

* Be prepared for a reading comprehension quiz

- _____ A hardcopy of your key passages assignment for *After Dark*
 - a. Three key passages identified (less than a page each)
 - b. Significance of each passage explained in 200 words maximum (600 words total)
- _____ Your annotated copy of one additional novel from the list
- _____ A hardcopy of your key passages assignment for your additional novel
 - Two key passages identified (less than a page each)
 - Significance of each passage explained in 200 words maximum (400 words total)
- _____ A hard copy of the review of a play or movie based on a play

Please purchase your books as soon as you receive this assignment. This summer reading assignment is due the first day of school: August 2010.

Enjoy your reading!